

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 IBADAN 00502 011200Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
/083 W

-----123209 011203Z /53

O P 011045Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2847
AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T IBADAN 0502

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV MPOL NI
SUBJECT: COUP RUMOR

1. AMCIT TEACHER AT IBADAN POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL CAME IN TODAY TO TELL OF RUMORS HE HAS HEARD OF A MILITARY COUP TO TAKE PLACE DURING MAY. HE SAID HE HAS HEARD DISCUSSION OF AN IMMINENT COUP FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES, INCLUDING SOME TRADITIONAL RULERS. HE SAID DISCUSSION IS RELATIVELY OPEN AND WIDESPREAD.

2. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT PLOTTERS OF COUP ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 23 HAD NEARLY ALL BEEN ROUNDED UP. HE BELIEVES A FEW STILL REMAIN. ALTERNATE DATE, HE SAID, HAD BEEN SET FOR MAY 5.

3. PERHAPS UNCONNECTED WITH THAT - OR NOT - IS CURRENT TALK OF COUP TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME DURING MAY. REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT REGIME ARE:

A. NORTHERNERS UNHAPPINESS WITH TREATMENT OF SHARIA ISSUE IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

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B. SOUTHERNERS UNHAPPINESS WITH LAND USE DECREE.
LCM GENERAL UNHAPPINESS WITH STUDENT FEES, HIGH PRICES, SCARCITIES, ETC.

D. MAJORS WHO BELIEVE IT NOW "THEIR TURN."

4. COMMENT: WHILE CANNOT ASSESS ACCURACY NO PREDICTION OF MAY COUP, MUCH OF WHAT AMCIT SAID IS VERIFIED FROM PAST INFORMATION WE HAVE. DISSATISFACTION CERTAINLY EXISTS AND SOURCE VERY PROBABLY IS REPORTING VERY CLOSELY WHAT HE HAS AND IS HEARING. HAVE NOT YET HEARD THIS STORY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

5. OTHER RELATED RECENT INFORMATION ON MILITARY RECEIVED BY US INCLUDE:

A. AMCIT PROFESSOR AT UNIBADAN, LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NIGERIA AND WELL VERSED IN NIGERIAN AFFAIRS, REPORTS THAT MILITARY IS VERY POPULAR IN COUNTRYSIDE. HE SAID RESULT FOI INFORMAL BUT CONTROLLED POLL OF FARMERS IN AREA REVEAL THAT ARMY, IF IT RAN AS A POLITICAL PARTY, WOULD WIN ANY ELECTION NOW. THEY NOT ANXIOUS FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

B. WE HEAR OF CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNHAPPINESS AT MAJOR LEVEL OF ARMY WITH RECENT ACTIONS BY REGIME.

6. OUTWARD SITUATION IN IBADAN QUITE NORMAL TODAY. MOST OF NOT ALL SCHOOLS OPEN AS USUAL. UNIVERSITIES REMAIN CLOSED AND QUIET.

HOYT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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